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In 1907 there was an excess of births in only 29 departments, as compared with 42 in 1906 and 43 in 1905, the departments showing this excess most markedly being: Pas-de-Calais, 103 per 10,000 inhabitants; Finistère, 89; Nord, 57; Morbihan, 51; Territorie de Belfort, 49; Haute-Vienne, 44; Seine-Inferieure, 37; Vosges, 36; Meurthe-et-Moselle, 35; Lozère, 34; Vendée, 33; Doubs, 26; Côtes du Nord and Corsica, 23. It will thus be seen that the regions which show an excess of births are the North, Brittany, the Eastern frontiers, Limousin, and Corsica, the departments inhabited by the Celtic, Flemish, and Basque races. In the basins of the Garonne and the Rhone each year the proportion of deaths over births increases, and thus Gascony and Provence are rapidly losing their characteristic population.

#### THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANIMAL NUTRITION

In connection with the International Live Stock Exposition at Chicago, there was held on November 28, 1908, a meeting of those college and experiment station workers more especially interested in investigation in stock feeding. About thirty were present, representing experiment stations from Massachusetts to California and from Minnesota to Alabama. The meeting grew out of a conference of investigators in this subject, held at Cornell University last summer during the graduate summer school of agriculture, and resulted in the formation of The American Society of Animal Nutrition.

The objects of the society, as stated in the constitution which was adopted, are "To improve the quality of investigation in animal nutrition, to promote more systematic and better correlated study of feeding problems, and to facilitate personal intercourse between investigators in this field." In addition to holding an annual meeting, the society proposes to take up actively the consideration of methods of investigation and later to enter upon cooperative study of important problems of stock feeding. To this end, a standing committee on experiments and two special committees on methods were provided for and

the committee appointed at the Cornell conference presented a full report outlining the work to be undertaken.

The officers of the new society are: *President*, H. P. Armsby, of Pennsylvania; *Vice-president*, C. F. Curtiss, of Iowa; *Secretary-treasurer*, D. H. Otis, of Wisconsin; *Registrar*, J. T. Willard, of Kansas. *Committee on Experiments*: H. J. Waters, of Missouri; H. W. Mumford, of Illinois; T. L. Haecker, of Minnesota; E. B. Forbes, of Ohio; W. H. Jordan, of New York.

#### SYMPOSIUM ON CORRELATION

##### SECTION E, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE program for a Symposium on the Principles and Criteria of Correlation is now completed, the following scientists having stated their readiness to discuss the several subjects opposite their names. The symposium will begin on Monday, December 28, under the auspices of Section E, and be carried as far as the time at the disposal of that section on Monday permits. On Tuesday and the following days, until completed, it will form a part of the program of the Geological Society of America, under a special subsection on correlation. The presentation and discussion of papers will be conducted strictly according to a definite time schedule, which will be stated in the program of the meeting.

C. R. Van Hise or C. K. Leith: "Principles of pre-Cambrian Correlation."

F. D. Adams: "The Basis of pre-Cambrian Correlation."

C. D. Walcott: "Evolution of Early Paleozoic Faunas in Relation to their Environment."

A. W. Grabau: "Physical and Faunal Evolution of North America in the Late Ordovician, Silurian and Early Devonian Time."

Stuart Weller: "Correlation of Middle and Upper Devonian and Mississippian Faunas of North America."

G. H. Girty: "Physical and Faunal Changes of Pennsylvanian and Permian in North America."

David White: "The Upper Paleozoic Floras, their Succession and Range."

S. W. Williston: "Environmental Relations of the Early Vertebrates."

H. F. Osborn: "Environment and Relations of the Tertiary Mammalia."

T. W. Stanton: "Succession and Distribution of Later Mesozoic Invertebrate Faunas."

W. H. Dall: "Conditions governing the Evolution and Distribution of Tertiary Faunas."

Ralph Arnold: "Environment of the Tertiary Faunas of the Pacific Coast."

F. H. Knowlton: "Succession and Range of Mesozoic and Tertiary Floras."

R. D. Salisbury: "Physical Geography of the Pleistocene with Special Reference to Conditions Bearing on Correlation."

D. T. MacDougal: "Relation of Plants to Climate with Special Reference to Pleistocene Conditions."

T. C. Chamberlin: "Diastrophism as the Ultimate Basis of Correlation."

BAILEY WILLIS,  
*Vice-president of Section E*  
E. O. HOVEY,  
*Secretary of the Geological*  
*Society of America*

#### THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

THE following circular, prepared for members of the American Society of Naturalists, is published in *SCIENCE*, in the hope of reaching many members of the affiliated societies who are not now members of the Society of Naturalists. It is hoped that all who are interested in the scientific study of evolution will join the naturalists in making a systematic effort to present the results of modern investigation in this field. Many who have not hitherto attended to the matter will also now appreciate the other advantages to be accomplished by strengthening this association of the special scientific societies to which they belong. Candidates are requested to apply directly to the secretary of the society, in accordance with the article of the constitution printed below.

#### REORGANIZATION AND ANNUAL MEETING

In view of the opinion, apparently so wide spread, that the American Society of Naturalists has no important function, and is not meeting the requirements of a proper cooperation between its affiliated societies and others, the following plan of reorganization is presented by the president

and executive committee. (Attention is especially called to paragraph 5.)

1. The Society of Naturalists shall remain independent of other general societies.

2. The Society shall continue to represent the natural affiliation between its group of technical societies composed of scientific specialists.

3. Cooperation with other organizations shall be accomplished through the executive committee, which shall be selected with a view to the establishment of such external relations.

4. The policy of the Society shall be redefined, so as to adjust it more definitely to exert an influence for the encouragement of research in the larger field of science which it has cultivated from the start.

5. It is suggested that the main object of the society be considered the study of evolution in all of its many-sided aspects (historical, environmental, experimental, etc.). There is no subject which would so well hold together all the present members (including botanists, zoologists, physiologists, anatomists, paleontologists, anthropologists, etc.). It is suggested, therefore, that each year original contributions dealing with evolutionary matters be presented at one or more of the sessions of the American Society of Naturalists. It may also prove desirable to have reports each year of the most important recent work in evolution, in several of its different aspects (botany, zoology, paleontology, etc.). In this way members could be kept in touch with the most important advances in different departments. Such reviews should be given by men eminent in their respective fields.

This year the Darwin Memorial Celebration of the American Association will be conducted along the lines sketched above. The Society of Naturalists will, therefore, not attempt, at this meeting, to present a similar program; but, after the presidential address, will devote its session to the consideration of other problems.

#### New Members

The above plan will doubtless attract a considerable number of investigators interested in the general problems of evolution, and it is hoped that all available candidates will be induced to join the Society at this time, and will have their names sent in.

ARTICLE II.—Section 1. Membership in this Society shall be limited to persons professionally engaged in some branch of Natural History, as, Instructors in Natural History, Officers of Mu-